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Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Memoriam

JAMES FOWLER RUSLING

Brevet Brig.-General U. S. Volunteers

DIED AT TRENTON N. J. APRIL 1 1918

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

CIRCULAR NO. 3. }
Series of 1919. }
Whole No. 874.

Philadelphia, March 3, 1919.

JAMES FOWLER RUSLING.

First Lieutenant and Quartermaster 5th New Jersey Infantry August 24, 1861; discharged for promotion June 20, 1862.

Captain and Assistant Quartermaster U. S. Volunteers June 11, 1862; honorably mustered out September 17, 1867.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Quartermaster (by assignment) May 27, 1863, to July 7, 1863.

Colonel and Quartermaster (by assignment) April 29, 1865, to January 1, 1867.

Brevetted Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel U. S. Volunteers March 13, 1865, "for faithful and meritorious services during the war"; Brigadier General February 16, 1866, "for faithful and meritorious services during the war."

Elected November 10, 1880. Class 1. Insignia 2110.

Council of the Commandery May 6, 1908-1909.

Born April 14, 1834, at Washington, N. J.

Died April 1, 1918, at Trenton, N. J.

Companion James F. Rusling served in the United States Army from August 24, 1861, to September 17, 1867—over six years. He participated in the campaigns and most of the battles of the Army of the Potomac until November, 1863; served in the Department of the Cumberland until May, 1865, and then inspection duty for the War Department until September, 1867. He was with McClellan during the Peninsula campaign—Yorktown, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill; with Pope at Second Bull Run and Chantilly; with Burnside at Fredericksburg; with Hooker at Chancellorsville; with Meade after Gettysburg; with Sherman at Atlanta; with Thomas at Nashville. He everywhere distinguished himself by intelligence, fidelity and courage. His ability won for him in two years advancement from the lowest rank through all the intermediate grades to the one next to the highest in his department, becoming Special Inspecting Quartermaster, Army of the Potomac, on General Meade's staff, 1863. When the operations shifted to the South he was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, and as Chief Assistant Quartermaster at Nashville had charge of the immense depots there supplying Sherman for his great march to the sea. After the close of hostilities, as Inspector of the Quartermaster Department, he visited the South and the West, including the Pacific Coast. He was made Bvt. Brigadier General February 16, 1866, "for faithful and meritorious services during the war," and continued in the service until September 17, 1867. He was the only volunteer officer appointed on a board of regulars to revise the "Rules and Regulations of the Army" and prepare a "Manual of Instructions to Quartermasters." In his five successive promotions, from First Lieutenant to Brigadier General, he was on the staff of and recommended by Generals Mott, Heintzelman, Siekles, McClellan, Hooker, Meade, Thomas, Sherman and Grant. He enjoyed the regard

of Quartermaster General Meigs, Secretary Stanton, Presidents Johnson and Lincoln.

After the war he settled in Trenton, N. J., and took up the practice of the law there, which he continued until shortly before his decease. He was interested in all public affairs and did much to aid in the development and improvement of the city in which he lived. He was active in the Methodist Church, making possible the erection of many new churches in Trenton. He was trustee of State Street M. E. Church twenty-eight years, and vice-president of the board. For thirty years he devoted much time to the affairs of and was vice-president of the General Missionary Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For thirty-six years he was a trustee of Pennington Seminary, of which he was a graduate, serving as president of the board and being accounted one of its most earnest friends. He was an alumnus of Dickinson College (1854), A. M. 1857, and received the degree of Doctor of Laws from his Alma Mater in 1890. He was a trustee of the college until the time of his decease, over thirty-nine years.

He was an author, orator and scholar. "Across America; or, The Great West and the Pacific Coast" (1875) passed through two editions. "Men and Things I Saw in Civil War Days" (1899) was highly commended by the press for its vivid pictures of the military leaders with whom he had personal contact. His "European Days and Ways" appeared in 1902 and was most favorably commented upon.

He was a frequent speaker at literary, political and religious gatherings, and his addresses on "The March of Methodism" and "Abraham Lincoln" were delivered in nine different states.

General Rusling was the son of Gershom Rusling and Eliza Budd Hankinson and came of English and Scotch-Irish ancestry. Three of his ancestors were officers in the Continental Army. His great grandfather, General Aaron Hankinson, served with gallantry and distinction under General Washington at Brandywine and Germantown; another grandfather, William McCullough, was Brigade Quartermaster and afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel, serving in the Continental Army nearly four years; afterwards Member of Assembly, New Jersey, five years, and of Council New Jersey four years, and Judge of Sussex and Warren Counties for thirty-five years. In 1853 General Rusling married Mary Freeman Winner, daughter of the Rev. Isaac Winner, D.D., who died the same year. After the war, in 1870, he married Emily Elizabeth Wood, daughter of Isaac Wood, of Trenton, N. J., who with their two children, James Wood Rusling and Mrs. Arthur L. Bates, of Mcadville, Pa., still survive him.

General Rusling attained more than a local reputation. He was a loyal friend, a brave and efficient soldier, a faithful public officer and citizen and accomplished scholar—a gallant Christian gentleman!

WASHINGTON A. ROEBLING,
JOHN SCHOONOVER,
WALTER GEORGE SMITH,

Committee.

By command of

COLONEL H. G. CAVENAUGH, U. S. A.
Commander

JOHN P. NICHOLSON
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. V.
Recorder

Official

Recorder

